

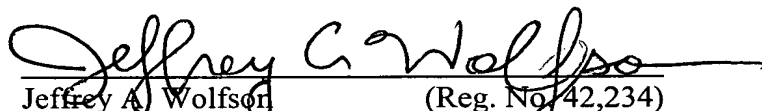
REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 17-25 are allowed. While Applicant disagrees with the merits of the rejection as to claims 12-16 since the cited reference only teaches closed-end channels, Applicant has canceled claims 12-16 to permit issuance of a patent on the previously allowed claims. Claim 12-16 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's rights to file one or more continuing applications or to add these claims to the pending continuation-in-part application at a later date.

Accordingly, Applicants now earnestly solicit issuance of a Notice of Allowance as all pending claims stand allowed. Should the Examiner not agree with this position, a telephone or personal interview is requested to resolve any remaining issues and expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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